

REMARKS

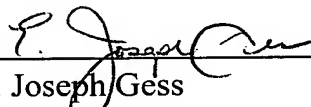
Entry of the foregoing, examination and consideration of the subject matter identified in caption, as amended, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. §1.112, and in light of the remarks which follow, are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 have been amended in order to delete multiple dependencies therefrom and to place them in compliance with U.S. practice. New Claims 16-17 have been presented to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. As well, the Specification has been amended to incorporate appropriate headings in accordance with U.S. practice.

Favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 18, 2001

Attachment to Preliminary Amendment dated December 18, 2001

Marked-up Copy of the Specification and Claims 1-15.

1. (Amended) Ammunition for small-, medium- and large-caliber weapons, consisting of a bullet with the same caliber as the weapon or which is subcaliber, comprising a profiled front part [(4)], a central part [(2)], and a rear part [(1)] which may bear fins [(12)], [characterized in that] wherein the bullet contains, along its axis, an internal core [(6)] with rigidity greater than that of the body of the bullet.

2. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein the internal core [(6)] extends over the front part [(4)] and the central part [(2)] of the bullet.

3. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein the internal core [(6)] is housed in an axial hole [(5)] which is open at the front of the bullet.

4. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in claim 3, [characterized in that] wherein the internal core [(26, 27)] passes right through it and runs from the rear part to the front part of the bullet.

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Marked-up Copy of the Specification and Claims 1-15.

5. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in [either of claims 3 and 4 characterized in that] Claim 3, wherein the front face of the internal core is set back from the front face of the front part of the bullet.

6. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in [either of claims 3 and 4, characterized in that] Claim 3, wherein the internal core [(20)] protrudes and its front end [(21)] extends beyond the front face [(22)] of the bullet.

7. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the internal core [(6)] consists of one single homogeneous element.

8. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the internal core consists of at least two consecutive elements [(15, 16)] arranged contiguously along the same axis.

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Marked-up Copy of the Specification and Claims 1-15.

9. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in claim 8, [characterized in that] wherein the internal core comprises a first cylindrical element [(23)] and one or more balls [(24)] of approximately equal diameter.

10. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in [any of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the internal core consists of a rod [(6)] having symmetry of revolution and comprising ribs over part of its surface.

11. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in claim 10, [characterized in that] wherein the internal core [(6)] has annular, helical or longitudinal ribs.

12. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in claim 11, [characterized in that] wherein the internal core has two to six longitudinal ribs [(7)] arranged symmetrically with respect to the axis.

13. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in [any of claims 3 to 6, characterized in that] Claim 3, wherein the front part of the body of the bullet has rupture initiators.

Marked-up Copy of the Specification and Claims 1-15.

14. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in [any of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the internal core [(6)] is made of steel, brass, copper or aluminum alloy.

15. (Amended) The ammunition as claimed in [any of the preceding claims, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the body of the bullet is made of copper or brass containing 5 to 40% zinc.